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in its lack of an index,—and the extracts from family correspondence and papers do not add materially to our knowledge of the period. Too much attention is given to episodes in which Mr. Pinckney took no part, such as the mission of his brother to France in 1797, while no reference is made to those phases of state politics upon which his career might be expected to throw some light, as, for example, the important problem of the history of the Federalist party in South Carolina. An unpleasant feature of the book is the frequent reference to the Civil War and the note of contrast between North and South. If it is too soon to expect an unprejudiced attitude toward recent events, we may at least demand that our early history be approached without partisan or sectional bias.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

*Chronicles of Border Warfare; or, a History of the Settlement by the Whites of Northwestern Virginia and of the Indian Wars and Massacres in that Section of the State, with Reflections, Anecdotes, &c.* By ALEXANDER SCOTT WITHERS. A new edition, edited and annotated by Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society. With the addition of a Memoir of the Author and several Illustrative Notes by the late Lyman Copeland Draper. (Cincinnati: The Robert Clarke Company. 1895. Pp. xx, 447.)

Not only the people of the Mississippi valley, but all of our historians who take an interest in the growth of the American people, westward, are under a debt of gratitude to the Robert Clarke Company, of Cincinnati, for their long series of publications on Western history. Some of these publications have represented original work and research put into the form of a monograph of some Western hero, or of an exhaustive treatise on some event of special importance in early Western history. In other cases, the book has been the reproduction of some valuable old publication, which is out of print, and accessible to very few scholars. The book before us comes under the latter head.

Withers' *Chronicles* is one of the number of books which have a great value because they preserve the traditions of the border about the Indian fighting of the second half of the eighteenth century in the West. They tell what the settlers themselves thought of the deeds done by the rough backwoodsman of the Alleghanys and the Upper Ohio in the ceaseless warfare of the white man against the red; they contain valuable side-lights on the ways of life and the habits of thought of the backwoodsmen; but, as a record of facts, each of them must be used with extreme caution.

Withers, like De Haas and Doddridge, both of whom covered much of the ground that he did, gathered some of his material from the pioneers themselves in their old age; but more often he adopted what the children of the pioneers told him, or what their successors reported as having been

done. Thus, what he relied on was really little more than family or local tradition. All these compilers quote one another without giving any credit for their quotations; so that the mere fact that they all tell a certain story does not make the story true. It is now quite impossible to say exactly which of their stories are true and which are false. Some of the more striking incidents, however, were undoubtedly preserved by tradition in the shape in which they occurred. Other incidents were so altered as to be unrecognizable by any seeker after truth. Yet others were recorded accurately enough as to the essential facts; but with much confusion of names and dates. A good illustration of the latter class is afforded by that account of one of the sieges of Wheeling, reported in all the border annal books, which tells how the garrison got out of powder, and how a girl brought in a supply, under circumstances of considerable heroism. All the traditions agree about this; but the conflicting claims as to who the girl was are absolutely irreconcilable.

Rather curiously these border annalists are more trustworthy when they deal with small events than when they deal with the larger facts of Western history. They know the traditions of their neighborhood well; but in more important matters tradition proves a poor guide. Withers, for instance, can often be trusted as to the circumstances attending the attack on some particular log hut, or the feats of prowess, on some one occasion, of a given backwoodsman. But his account of St. Clair's defeat is valueless, and is followed by what is probably the wildest fabrication to be found in any book of border annals. He states that an expedition of the mounted volunteers of Kentucky avenged St. Clair's defeat by attacking the victorious Indians as they were camped on the scene of the battle, killing two hundred, putting to flight the rest, and recapturing the cannon. No such expedition took place, no such fight was fought, not an Indian was killed, and not a gun captured, as described.

However, in spite of some looseness in matters of fact, the book has great value, and must be consulted by every student of early Western history. Mr. Reuben Gold Thwaites is an ideal editor for such a work; a trained student and scholar, — the two words are not synonymous, — he is one of that band of Western historians, who, during the last decade, have opened an entirely new field of historical study. The editorial work of this edition of the *Chronicles* is excellent throughout.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

*A History of the People of the United States, from the Revolution to the Civil War.* By JOHN BACH McMASTER, University of Pennsylvania. In six volumes. Vol. IV. (New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1895. Pp. xiv, 630.)

IN this portly volume, Mr. McMaster traverses the nine years extending from the summer of 1812 to the spring of 1821. This scarcely brings the author to the middle mark of his chosen course. If the forty